

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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R 071142Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9655

S E C R E T KINSHASA 8483

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 2., LAST LINE)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MASS, EAID, CG, BE

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES TO ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 7690

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR KERREMANS TELLS ME THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU "HAS LED HIM TO UNDERSTAND" THAT HE HAS ASKED USG FOR MORE ARMS. KERREMANS ASKED IF HIS UNDERSTANDING WERE CORRECT THAT MOBUTU'S REQUEST TO US WAS LINKED TO MOBUTU'S TRIP TO MOSCOW. I TOLD HE WAS RIGHT. I ALSO INDICATED THAT MOBUTU IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN C-130'S.

2. KERREMANS SUGGESTED MOBUTU WAS USING SOVIET TRIP TO BLACKMAIL US, BELGIUM, AND OTHERS BUT WHEN I ASKED WHAT BELGIUM HAD BEEN ASKED TO DO, HE CAUTIOUSLY REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT BELGIUM WAS SUPPOSED TO STAND STILL WHILE ZAIRE "DIVERSIFIED" ITS ARMS SOURCES. HE IDENTIFIED "OTHERS" IN THIS STATEMENT AS INCLUDING PEKING AND PYONGYANG.

3. KERREMANS HAS BEEN PROBING ME AND EMBASSY OFFICERS FOR PAST MONTH CONCERNING MY SEP 9 MEETING WITH MOBUTU. WHILE I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT NOT TO DIVULGE SUBSTANCE OF THAT MEETING, HE IS NOW CLUED IN, APPARENTLY BY MOBUTU. MOREOVER, CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
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BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HERE COULD DEVELOP, AS IN PAST, INTO

VALUABLE TWO-WAY STREET. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS ME TO THE CONTRARY, I PROPOSE ON OCT 9 TO BRIEF KERREMANS WHO WILL BE TRAVELLING UPCOUNTRY OCT 10 TO 17 ON STATUS ZAMISH-MOLONGYA TALKS WHICH ARE TO RESUME TODAY (OCT 7).

4. IF, AS I HOPE, GOZ NOW COMES UP WITH PROMISED PAPER, DEPARTMENT IN ADDITION TO WORKING WITH DEFENSE TO SORT OUT OUR REACTION TO THEIR SHOPPING LIST, MAY WISH TO CONSULT IN NATO COUNCIL OR WITH SELECTED NATO ALLIES CONCERNING SITUATIONS AND TO THINK TROUGH POSSIBILITY THAT SECRETARY MIGHT EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF MUTUAL RESTRAINT ON ARMS SALES WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN OR OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS BEARING IN MIND HOWEVER THAT EVEN IF SOVIETS COULD BE DISSUADED FROM OFFERING ARMS HERE, WE WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING MORE OURSELVES IF WE WANT TO TRY THROW SPANNER IN NORTH KOREAN AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY ZAIRE.
HINTON

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